

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An MPEG-4 bitstream, which contains one or a plurality of encoded object data and management information for managing them, is input from a transmission path, and is demultiplexed by a demultiplexer into object data. An IPMP controller extracts time limit information that pertains to a time limit for the one or plurality of object data from the management information, and controls the reproduction process of the one or plurality of object data on the basis of the extracted time limit information, thus preventing excess use of a predetermined object set with a time limit upon decoding information from a bitstream containing a plurality of object data.